

2019 Report to Citizens



Idaho Department of Environmental Quality

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DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Over the past four years, I have had the pleasure of working with the excellent employees at DEQ. We are committed to the work we do, and we enjoy the opportunity to serve you, the citizens of Idaho.

We have five priorities that guide how we conduct our business: integrity, safety, respect, continuous improvement, and customer service, and I think we are doing a good job meeting them. These priorities also help us improve the services we provide you.

This year, we are pleased to highlight several accomplishments. We gained control over our point source pollutant permitting program and are working with facilities across the state to ensure compliance. We expanded our air quality monitoring programs and are helping communities take proactive steps to reduce air emissions. We increased outreach assistance to schools, homeowners, and businesses to promote environmental stewardship. We responded to and remediated several environmental spills and reduced the overall number of contaminated sites in our state. And we leveraged millions of dollars in community grants and loans to spur infrastructure upgrades and revitalization projects across Idaho.

I hope you enjoy this report to you, our customers.

John H. Tippetts

OUR MISSION

To protect human health and the quality of Idaho's air, land, and water.

OUR VISION

An Idaho where the quality of our environment enhances healthy living and supports thriving communities.

OUR PROGRAMS

Air Quality
Water Quality
Waste Management and Remediation
Idaho National Laboratory Oversight
Emergency Response

652

Inspections
Conducted

142

Permits
Issued

\$4.3 M

Grant Dollars
Awarded

\$59 M

Loan Dollars
Awarded

119

Cleanups
Completed

242

Sites
Surveyed

FY19

By the Numbers

\$ 349 K

Wastewater grants

\$ 53.5 M

Wastewater loans

BROWNFIELDS ASSESSMENT

The Brownfields Assessment Program helps communities redevelop properties where the perception of contamination may hinder investment.

Brownfields **conducted 13 assessments and 1 cleanup** in FY19. Of those assessments, three were new sites that had not received any previous Brownfields involvement.

\$ 3.7 M

Paved Roads Grant

\$ 150 K

Community Reinvestment
Pilot Project Reimbursement

WOODSTOVE CHANGEOUT

DEQ's woodstove changeout program provides financial incentives to Idaho homeowners to replace old woodstoves with EPA-certified units.

In FY19, DEQ provided **\$227,502** in woodstove changeout funding and replaced **64 stoves** in the Cache Valley, West Silver Valley, and southeastern Idaho.

\$ 279 K

Drinking water grants

\$ 3.6 M

Drinking water loans

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

DEQ facilitates cleanup efforts during environmental and public health emergencies to minimize damage to lakes, rivers, and critical habitat.

Most of Idaho's transportation infrastructure follows major waterways. DEQ **responded to 275 spills** last year, ranging from hazardous spills to facility releases.

Year in Review

MAKING MEASURABLE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Improved air quality in local communities.

DEQ submitted an action plan for the city of Salmon as part of EPA's voluntary Particulate Matter Advance program. This effort will help communities like Salmon implement proactive measures to reduce fine particulate pollution and improve air quality.

Gained control over point source pollution permitting program.

DEQ gained primacy over the state-operated pollutant discharge elimination system and now has the authority to regulate point source discharge pollution. DEQ issued its first permit to the city of Shoshone and is actively monitoring facility compliance across the state.

Reduced the number of contaminated sites.

DEQ responded to and remediated several environmental spills this year, including a 6,700-gallon diesel spill from a pipeline, a 270-gallon heating oil release in a residential area, and a 20,000-gallon ethanol release from a petroleum bulk plant. All three events were initially hazardous materials incidents that transitioned to general remediation sites after the emergency phase was complete.



PROVIDING FIRST-CLASS CUSTOMER SERVICE

Streamlined permitting processes agency-wide.

DEQ evaluated and reorganized air quality permit application materials and posted examples of completed permit applications on the website. DEQ will provide similar examples for other permitting processes, including dredge and fill, water reuse, pollutant discharge, and treatment, storage, and disposal.

Provided drinking water and source water protection assistance.

DEQ continued to support public drinking water systems this year, certifying 12 source water protection plans and issuing 11 source water protection grants totaling over \$100,000. Additionally, in partnership with EPA and the Rural Community Assistance Corporation, DEQ conducted a "Cyanotoxins in Drinking Water: Protection and Response" workshop focusing on increasing participants' understanding of cyanotoxins, their impacts to public drinking water, and strategies to protect against the threat of cyanotoxins.





FOSTERING A CULTURE OF CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Conducted hazardous waste kaizen.

The Hazardous Waste Bureau conducted a kaizen event to streamline the hazardous waste inspection process. Staff reduced the number of steps from 74 to 55 and identified opportunities to improve report quality and increase compliance rates, customer satisfaction, and inspector retention.

Incorporated continuous improvement tools.

In 2019, DEQ set a goal of training 80% of agency staff in Lean techniques to improve efficiency and reduce waste. This goal will help DEQ deliver on its continuous improvement mission and streamline service delivery to the citizens of Idaho.

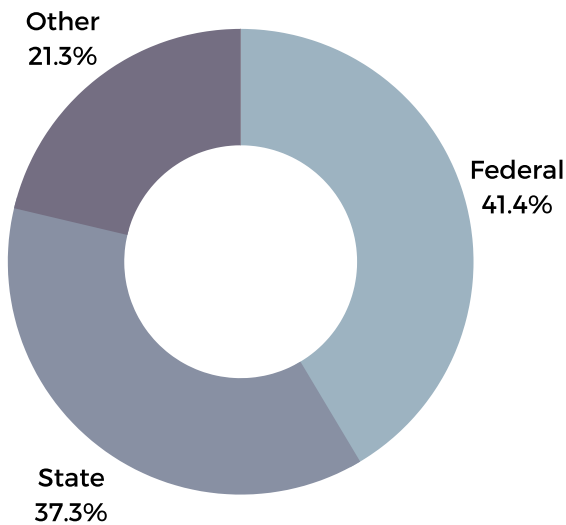
Implemented the Red Tape Reduction Act.

In response to Governor Little's Red Tape Reduction Act, DEQ reviewed 25 chapters of administrative code and is eliminating outdated language and streamlining existing rules. To date, DEQ has eliminated four chapters and 55 pages.

Finances

REVENUES BY SOURCE

FY19 revenue totaled 56,203,988, a 7% increase from FY18 (\$52,332,771).



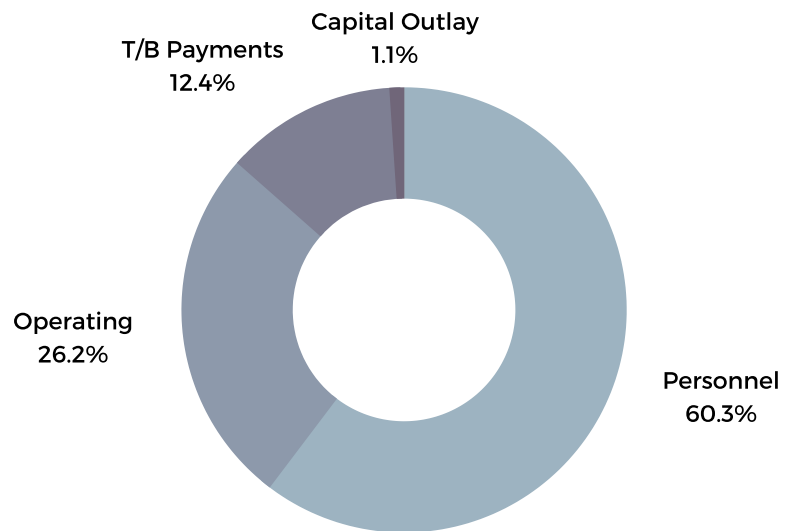
Federal and state revenue totaled \$23,280,316 and \$20,947,781, respectively in FY19.

DEQ also received nearly \$12 million from "other" sources:

- Water pollution Control Fund
- Environmental Remediation Funds
- Bunker Hill Consent Decree
- Air quality permitting
- Public water system oversight
- Cooperative Funds—Other

EXPENDITURES BY TYPE

FY19 expenditures totaled \$51,164,325, a 4% increase from FY18 (\$49,015,318).



Personnel and operating costs accounted for the majority (86%) of DEQ's expenditures in FY19.

Trustee and benefits include payments made from DEQ to eligible governmental entities for the provision of services.

LOOKING AHEAD

Address emerging contaminants.

Emerging contaminants are unregulated contaminants that pose a risk to the environment and human health. DEQ is working with state and federal agencies to research and address these areas of concern.

Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) are fluorinated organic chemicals that do not occur naturally in the environment. These chemicals resist water, grease, and stains and are used extensively in industrial and commercial products such as carpet, clothing, food packaging, and fire-resistant materials. DEQ has developed an internal multimedia work group to track this issue.

Cyanobacteria are bacteria that are capable of producing compounds (collectively called cyanotoxins) that can be harmful to human and animal health. DEQ is working with the Department of Health and Welfare, the Department of Fish and Game, and local health districts to educate the public about the potential health effects of cyanotoxins. DEQ is also working with other states to develop techniques and strategies for more effective public outreach.

Finalize prescribed burning rules.

DEQ is engaging stakeholders in the negotiated rulemaking process to update the agency's prescribed burning rules. Prescribed burning has long been used as a forest management tool in Idaho, and DEQ will continue to work with land managers and agencies to finalize prescribed burning rules with the goal of protecting public health while providing flexibility to land managers.



Continue the Coeur d'Alene Basin Restoration Partnership.

This collaborative effort aims to restore natural resources in the Coeur d'Alene Basin impacted by contaminated mine waste. The partnership was formed by the Coeur d'Alene Basin Natural Resource Trustees and includes representatives from federal and state agencies and the Coeur d'Alene Tribe. In 2019, Trustees implemented 11 restoration projects to benefit streams, lakes, wetlands, and human uses. Trustees also approved funding for six additional projects totaling approximately \$1 million and are reviewing applications for 12 more projects totaling \$3.7 million. The projects under consideration range in size from \$12,000 for riparian plants to \$1.9 million for an approximately 2,000-acre conservation easement.

Reduce the number of unhealthy air quality days.

DEQ's strategic plan aims to reduce the number of unhealthy air quality days for Idaho residents as identified by the Air Quality Index (AQI). In FY19, DEQ reported 11 days in the unhealthy range, largely due to exceptional events such as wildfires and dust events. DEQ will continue to benchmark unhealthy air quality days and report progress annually.

Redevelop the Bunker Hill Superfund Site.

In 2018, EPA added the Bunker Hill Superfund site in northern Idaho to the national Superfund Redevelopment Focus List. DEQ and the Panhandle Health District are partnering with EPA to help the Silver Valley community continue to grow and prosper, including examining the feasibility of future redevelopment on over 800 acres of DEQ-owned properties.



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To our
customers:
THANK YOU.